

Appl. No. 10/734,7653

Amdt. Dated November 16, 2005

Reply to Final Office Action of September 28, 2005

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] Figure 3 shows a half-sectional view of a constant velocity joint 11 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention in a propeller shaft assembly. The joint 11 is an axially plungeable constant velocity joint of the cross-groove type. For purposes of clarity, the cross-groove joints of Figures 3-7 are shown with exaggerated outer joint part ball track lengths such that the energy absorption features discussed herein can be more easily illustrated. The constant velocity joint 11 comprises an outer joint part 50, an inner joint part 52, a ball cage 54 and more than one torque transmitting balls 56 each held in a cage window 58. The outer joint part 50 comprises a cylindrical open end 66 located proximate to the hollow shaft 42, outer ball tracks 60 which longitudinally extend over the length of the outer joint part 50, having a normal axial range N and an outer extended axial range E. The inner joint part 52 comprises inner ball tracks 61 which longitudinally extend over the length of the inner joint part 52, having a normal axial range N and an inner extended axial range IE. The inner extended axial range IE of the inner joint part 52 is correspondingly positioned in opposite direction, about the normal axial range N, from the outer extended axial range E of the outer joint part 50. Each inner ball track 61 is associated with a corresponding outer ball track 60 forming angles of intersection with respect to an axis. The angles are identical in size but set in opposite directions and corresponding to the inner ball tracks 61 and the outer ball tracks 60. The length of each inner ball track 61 is commensurate with the length of each outer ball track 60, although shown in the figure as having different lengths for clarity of the inventive aspects. Alternatively, it can be recognized that the inner ball tracks 61 and the outer ball tracks 60 can have varying lengths, the shorter of which correspondingly commensurate to the angles of intersection of the longer of the two. Thus, the outer joint part 50 and the inner joint part 52 are driveably connected through the torque transmitting balls 56 located in the ball tracks 60, 61; there being one torque transmitting ball 56 for each corresponding pair of ball tracks 60, 61. The torque transmitting balls 56 are positioned and maintained in a constant velocity plane by the ball cage 54, wherein the ball cage 54 is located between the two joint parts 50, 52. The constant velocity joint 11 permits axial movement since the ball cage 54 is not positionably engaged to the inner joint part 52 and the outer joint part 50.